DES MOINES, IOWA
REGISTER

M - 243,471
S - 481,727
FEB 10 1977

Military man for CIA

In nominating Stansfield Turner to head the Central Intelligence Agency, President Carter has swung to the other extreme from his first choice, Theodore Sorensen, who withdrew his name after running into criticism.

Sorensen was a conscientious objector; Turner has spent his entire adult life in a military combat service. Sorensen is a lawyer who defended Daniel Ellsberg's defiance of the secrecy classification put on the Pentagon Papers and Sorensen said he himself had published material from "classified" documents; Turner, while a maverick and an innovator in the Navy, has been a model of discretion about matters officially designated as secret.

The Central Intelligence Agency has been a quasi-military agency, and no law forbids a military officer in active service to head it. Three admirals and one general have been among its directors. The agency's worst abuses — assassination plots, "dirty tricks," illegal spying on Americans in America, secret wars — occurred under civilian directors Allen Dulles and Richard Helms.

Before confirming Turner, the Senate committee should inquire carefully into Turner's views on the legitimate functions of the agency and his attitude toward such abuses. The Senate needs to be convinced that Turner is capable of being objective in assessing foreign military might and that he would keep a tight rein on covert CIA activities.

Turner's naval career has been a brilliant one, with a wide variety of assignments at sea and on shore.

He wrote an article in the January issue of Foreign Affairs quarterly which emphasized that comparing U.S. and Soviet naval strength was not just a numbers game but involved sophisticated analysis of differing missions and trends. He thought that fellow admirals were endangering U.S. ability to exert influence through naval "presence" by their numbers-game arguments that the Soviet navy was surpassing ours in various categories. No ordinary admiral, Stansfield Turner.